REMARKS

In the Office Action issued on January 3, 2007, the Examiner objected to claims 1, 3, 4, 6, and 12-16 because of her uncertainty as to the meaning of certain terms in the respective claims, rejected claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as failing to be directed to statutory subject matter, and rejected claims 1-12 and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Liu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,266,660) in view of Whang et al. (US Patent No. 6,349,308). Claim 13 was objected to as being dependent on a rejected claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1, 3-5, 12, 15, and 16 have been amended. .

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 1, 3, 4, 6, and 12-16 because of her uncertainty as to the meaning of certain terms in the respective claims. To expedite prosecution the Applicants have amended the respective claims by including the meaning of the terms within the claim language. The Applicants believe that the object has been overcome and withdrawal of the object is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101

The Examiner rejected claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as failing to be directed to statutory subject matter. The Applicants have amended claims 1, 5, 15 and 16 so that they now recite the tangible and useful result of retrieving data stored in the database system using the secondary index for a B+tree. The Applicant believe that the rejection has been overcome and

withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-12 and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Liu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,266,660) in view of Whang et al. (US Patent No. 6,349,308).

The applicants have amended claims 1, 5, 15 and 16 so that they each recite, *inter alia*, a mapping table rowid value that uniquely identifies a row within a mapping table and a guess-database address value that represents an address block of a primary B+tree where a row may be found.

Neither Liu nor Whang discloses the implementation or storage of values having the characteristics set forth above. Liu merely discloses a secondary index that stores secondary index records that includes primary key values and data records having data. There is no disclosure in Liu of values being stored in the secondary index as recited in independent claims 1, 5, 15, and 16.

Whang does not cure the deficiencies of Liu. Accordingly, the combination of Liu and Whang does not teach or suggest the invention as now recited in claims 1, 5, 15 and 16.

Claims 2-4, and 6-14 depend from claims 1 and 5 respectively. Accordingly, the combination of Liu and Whang does not teach or suggest the invention as now recited in claims 2-4, and 6-14 for the same reasons discussed with respect to claims 1 and 5.
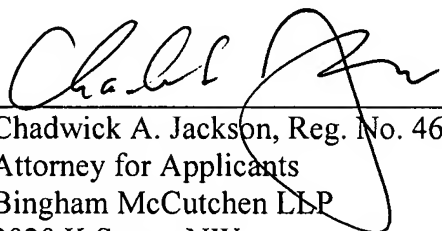
Additional Fees:

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with this application to Deposit Account No. 50-4047 (19111.0143).

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, all of the Examiner's rejections to the claims are believed to be overcome. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance for all the claims remaining in the application. Should the Examiner feel further communication would facilitate prosecution, he is urged to call the undersigned at the phone number provided below.

Date: June 15, 2007

Chadwick A. Jackson, Reg. No. 46,495
Attorney for Applicants
Bingham McCutchen LLP
2020 K Street, NW
Intellectual Property Law Department
Washington, DC 20006
Telephone: (202) 373-6661